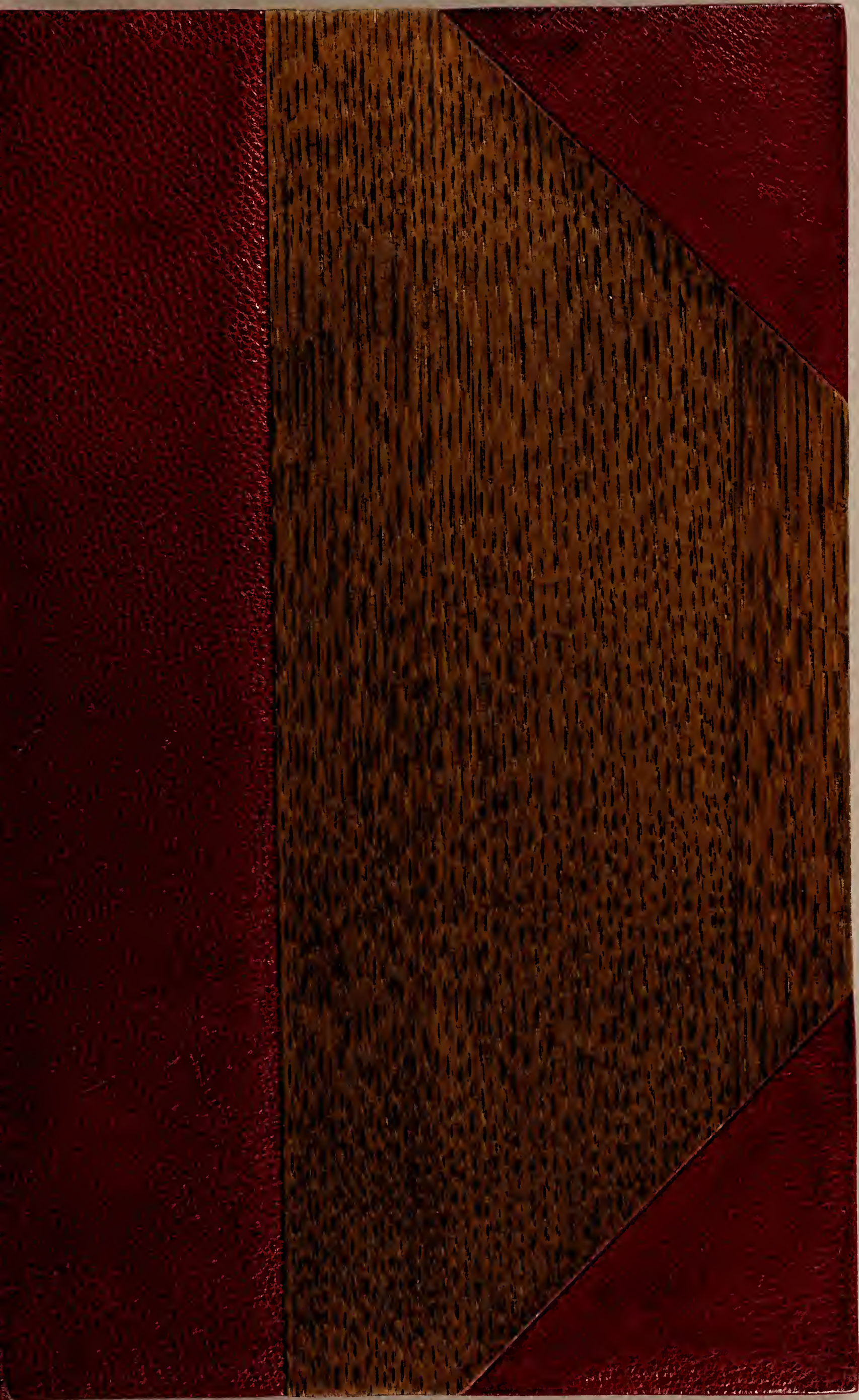
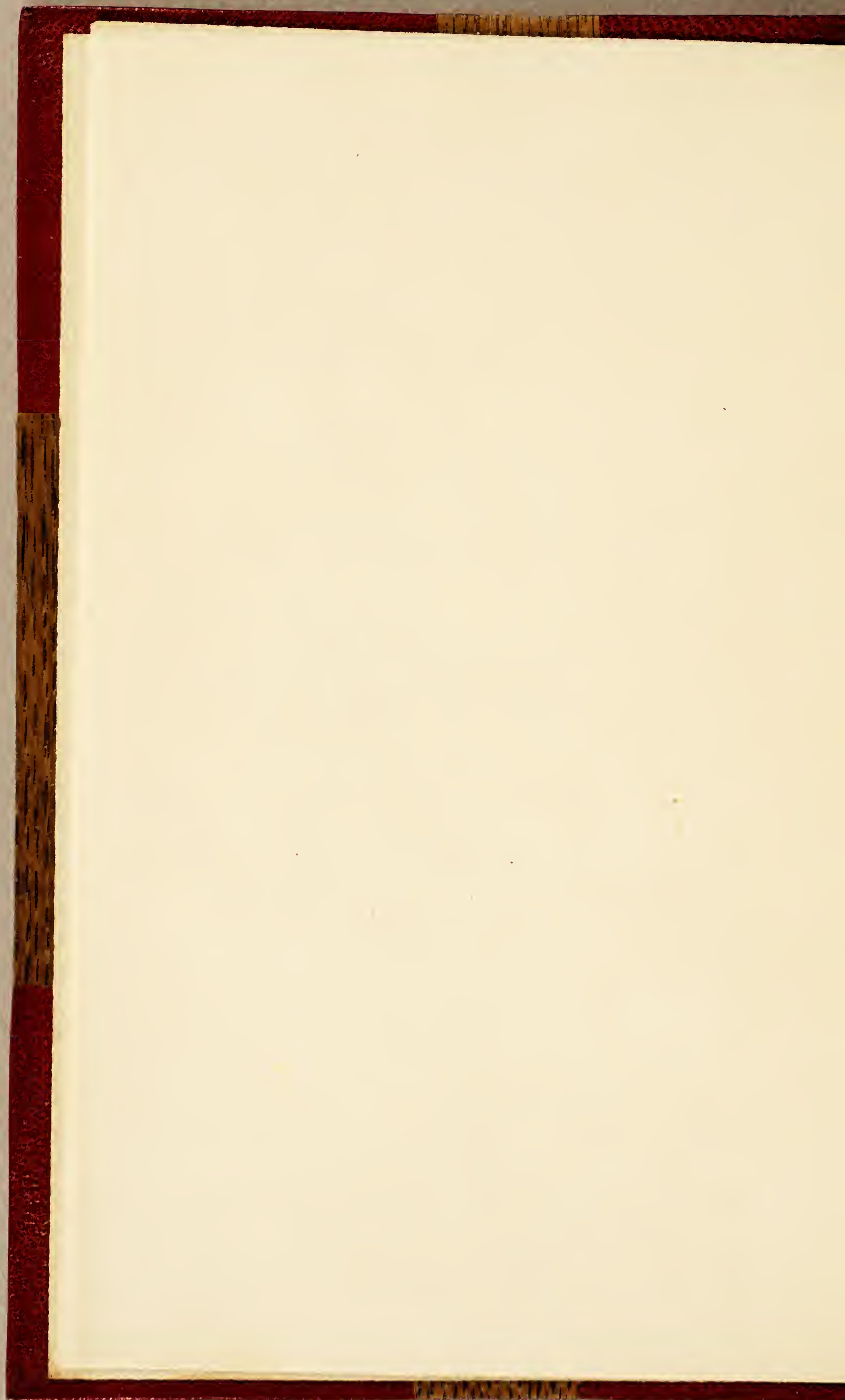


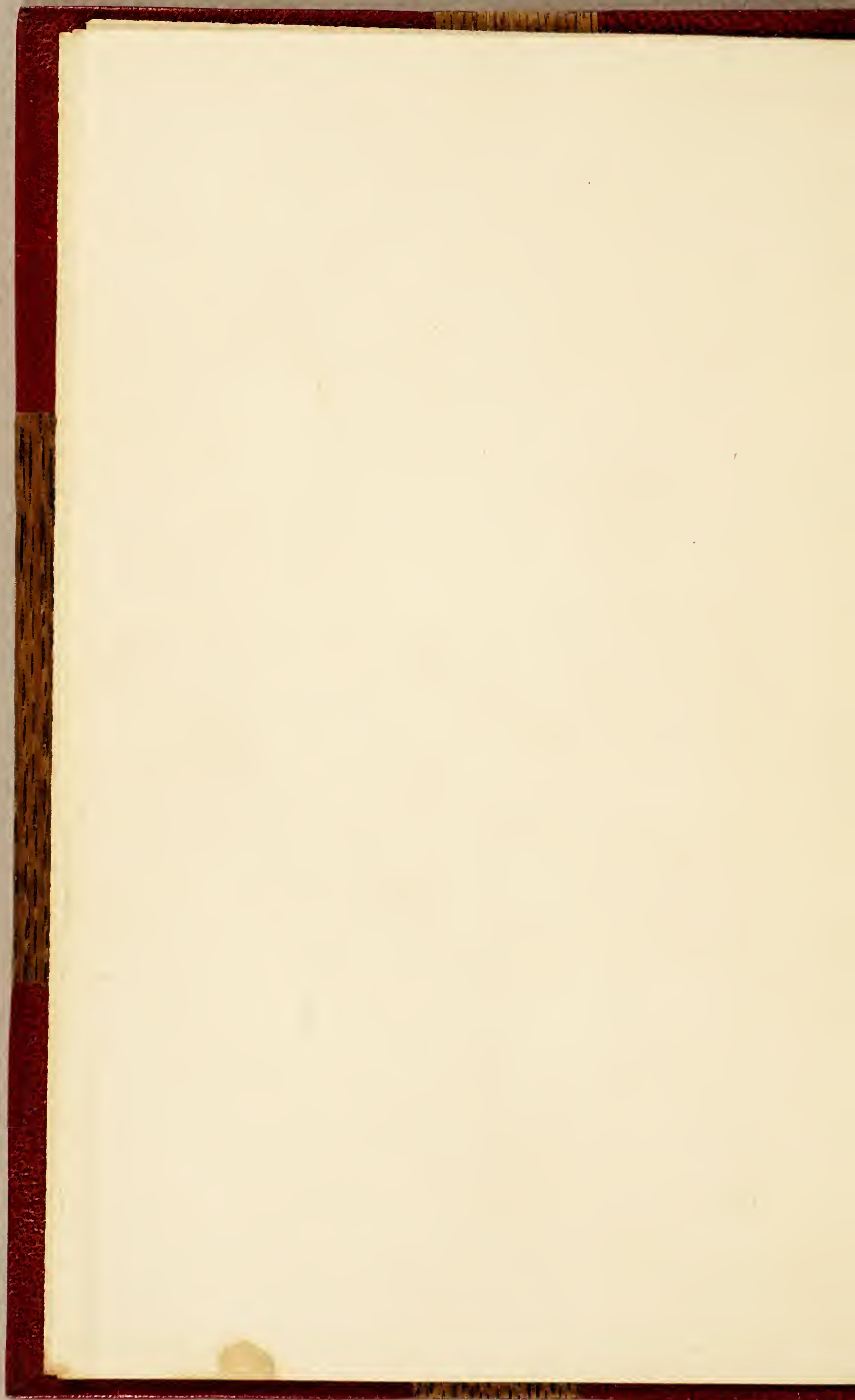


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A COPY of a
L E T T E R

FROM

A Gentleman in *Guadaloupe*,

TO HIS

Friend in *LONDON*.



L O N D O N:

Printed in the YEAR MDCC LX.

1599

RPJCB

A C O P Y of a
 L E T T E R, &c.

THE different Opinions of the People concerning the Value of *Canada*, and the Value of *Guadaloupe* to *Great Britain*, have occasioned many Disputes in private and publick, in which private Views have too often influenced the Debate: Those who are for acquiring all *Canada*, and giving up *Guadaloupe* and every Thing else, argue in this Manner; That no Terms with the *French* can be secure or lasting; at the very Time they are making a Peace, they are contriving how to break it, and will do so as soon as any Opportunity occurs to do it to Advantage; That we entered into the War only upon Account of *America*, that the *French* invaded our Properties there, and were long contriving to do it: Now that we have beaten them out of all that Country, what we did never claim, as well as what we did claim, therefore we ought to keep all *America*, as the greatest Acquisition we can make, or ever was made; for if we allow them the smallest Footing even in *Canada* itself, we can never be secure, they will drive us out of that Country. That the Trade of *North America*, is the great Fountain of all the *British* Wealth and Power; that of late Years it furnishes and employs so many Ships, and so many Sailors, makes so great a Consumption of the Produce of *Great Britain*, sends so

much of its Produce to the Sugar Islands, and pours in such a Tide of Wealth from the *West-Indies* upon *Britain*, as enables her to make the Figure she now does, to the rest of the World: That if all *North America* were our own, she could be drawn into no more Wars on that Account, our Trade there would rise to the highest Pitch, and that Country so Extensive, so Rich, and full of so many Lakes and Rivers fit for Navigation, would soon raise the Power and Naval Strength of *Great Britain*, to a Degree beyond any Power on Earth.

That the Furr Trade might be entirely our own; That one Ship of the *Hudson-Bay* Company is often so rich, as bring home more Value than ten Sugar Ships; That we have sufficiency of the Sugar Islands already; That *Jamaica* alone, if it were properly cultivated, can afford more Sugar than *England* wants, it sends home near 40,000 Hogsheads every Year, when the third Part is not cultivated; That *Guadaloupe* is a Place of no Significancy compared with *Jamaica*, and could add very little Strength or Wealth to *Great Britain*; That the *French* have long out done us in the Hats, a Trade that we may have entirely to ourselves, by acquiring *Canada*; and that if we leave the *French* the smallest Footing or Possession there, we never can be secure, or safe in the rest; we have done nothing, but must always be liable to repeat the same Expence.

Those who wish the keeping of *Guadaloupe*, answer as follows; That *Guadaloupe* we certainly have, and that *Canada* we have not, the Fate of it is still dubious, that all the Reasoning before-mentioned is sophistical and unsolid; That the Advantages of *North America* to *Britain*, exclusive of *Canada* are very great; why join them all to *Canada*, of itself worth little or nothing, but to give it Weight, which it has not of itself; If our Barrier in *America*, shall be fixt by Treaty to the certain Limits we insist upon, and *Cape Britain* retain'd or demolish'd, we are in a much better Situation there
than

than ever, which would render *America* of much more Advantage to us than it was in former Times, and more secure, nay as secure as the Instability of human Affairs can admit; The Benefit of *North America* to *Britain* does not depend upon *Canada* at all, it is a frothy and false Argument, *Canada* can add nothing but, First, a little Improvement of the Furr Trade, which might be in very great Perfection without it; Secondly, Preventing the *French* from disturbing us in that Quarter of the World for some Time, and even that Argument is equally strong for taking the *Mississipy*, otherwise it is not conclusive.

But as it is argued that the *French* will never be at Peace with us, it must follow that when they cannot make War in *America* they must disturb us in *Europe*; now let those Gentlemen answer, Whether we have more Advantage over the *French* by a War in *America* or a War in *Flanders*, when they have *Ostend*, &c. in their Hands? The present War compared with those of King *William*, Queen *Ann*, and the War 1744, soon solves that Question, the Sugar Trade is far preferable to the Furr Trade; What does a few Hats signify, compared with serving ourselves and other Countries with that Article of Luxury Sugar, the Consumption of which is daily encreasing both in *America* and *Europe*, and become one of the Necessaries of Life? *Jamaica* has not encreased in Sugars these thirty Years past, and never can encrease much, as the greatest Part of it is so mountainous, that it is not capable of Culture, and cannot answer the Expence in many Places, of carrying the Sugars over Mountains to be shipt, tho' they have made a Monopoly for themselves of that Commodity, of a long Time past, they must now be the more reluctant to part with it.

It is our Sugar Islands that raise the Value of *North America*, and pours in such Wealth upon the Mother Country; the more we have of those Islands, *America* becomes

becomes from that Cause the more important and valuable, and *England* the richer : In *America* we have more than enough, in the Sugar Islands a great deal too little, the nearer they can be proportioned to one another the better for both, and the more Trade and Wealth for *England* ; The Furr Trade does not employ the hundred Part of the Shipping and Seamen that the Sugar Trade does,

The having all *North America* to ourselves, by acquiring *Canada*, dazles the Eyes, and blinds the Understandings of the giddy and unthinking People, as it is natural for the human Mind to grasp at every Appearance of Wealth and Grandeur, yet it is easy to discover that such a Peace might soon ruin *Britain* : I say the Acquisition of *Canada* wou'd be destructive, because such a Country as *North America*, ten times larger in Extent than *Britain*, richer Soil in most Places, all the different Climates you can fancy, all the Lakes and Rivers for Navigation one could wish, plenty of Wood for Shipping, and as much Iron, Hemp, and naval Stores, as any Part of the World ; such a Country at such a Distance, could never remain long subject to *Britain* ; you have taught them the Art of War, and put Arms in their Hands, and they can furnish themselves with every Thing in a few Years, without the Assistance of *Britain*, they are always grumbling and complaining against *Britain*, even while they have the *French* to dread, what may they not be supposed to do if the *French* is no longer a Check upon them ; you must keep a numerous standing Army to over awe them ; these Troops will soon get Wives and Possessions and become *Americans* ; thus from these Measures you lay the surest Foundation of unpeopling *Britain*, and strengthening *America* to revolt ; a People who must become more licentious from their Liberty, and more factious and turbulent from the Distance of the Power that rules them ; one must be very little conversant in History, and totally unacquainted with the Passions and Operations of the human

human Mind, who cannot foresee those Events as clearly as any thing can be discovered, that lyes concealed in the Womb of Time ; it is no Gift of Prophecy, it is only the natural and unavoidable Consequences of such and such Measures, and must appear so to every Man whose Head is not too much affected with popular Madness or political Enthusiasm.

But without dipping too deep in Futurity, pray what can *Canada* yield to *Britain*, in this or any subsequent Age, but a little Extension of the Furr Trade ? Whereas *Guadeloupe* can furnish as much Sugar, Cotton, Rum and Coffee, as all the Islands we have put together, and consume a vast Quantity of the *British* and *American* Produce, from which Trade the Shipping and Naval Strength of *Britain* must greatly encrease, without any Allowance for the Cinnamon Trade, which of itself may bring a good deal of Wealth to the Mother Country, as we have the wild Cinnamon in common with the other Islands, so we have also the true genuine Cinnamon Tree, and have sent Home to *England* Samples of it, as good as any the *Dutch* have.

The Consumption of Sugar is Daily encreasing, both in *Europe* and *America*, and we cannot at this Day serve ourselves with that Article, but are we not to endeavour to serve foreign Markets if we can ? Did ever the *French* bring half so much Wealth to their Country from Hats as from their Sugar Islands ? To say we have Sugar enough is to say we have Trade enough, a new Doctrine truly, and if so what use have we for *Canada* ? In a Word, it is most obvious to every impartial Eye, that the Encrease of the Sugar Islands is particularly the Interest of *Britain*, she is there too weak, and as those Islands bring most Wealth both to *Britain* and *America*, so from their Weakness they can never be in any danger of revolting ; and that every Person, as soon as he can make a Fortune there, comes Home to the Mother Country and enjoys it ; Witness the
Number

Number of the Proprietors of the Sugar Islands that reside at *London*, and many of them sit in Parliament; If they dread *Guadaloupe* as a Rival to their private Interest, they must at the same Time own, it is a great Acquisition to the publick Wealth and Strength. Thus *Guadaloupe*, one of the greatest Acquisitions ever *Britain* made, acquires many powerful Enemies from private Views, and has nothing to plead but her publick Utility and Advantage, often found too feeble an Opponent to the private Interest of a few.

But to conclude, nothing can secure *Britain* so much against the Revolting of *North America*, as the *French* keeping some Footing there, to be a Check upon them, if the Peace be made with any tolerable Attention to our Barrier in *America*, as we may be most certain it will, *France* must ever after be an Enemy too feeble to be dreaded in that Corner of the World; But if we were to acquire all *Canada*, we should soon find *North America* itself too Powerful, and too Populous to be long govern'd by us at this Distance; we have often, too often, wasted our Blood and Treasure to raise up other Powers to Wealth and Strength, only to be once our Enemies; it were much to be wished that we could take Warning and do so no more.

After Writing what is above, some new Arguments in Favour of *Canada* have appeared in this Part of the World, by the *Gentleman's Magazine* for the Month of *May*. The Publisher of that Magazine has usher'd it in with full Approbation from himself, that it is written with great force of Argument, and compleat Knowledge of the Subject, from which we may conclude the Paragraphs given us are the Choicest of the Work; the first remarkable Passage is, "We want Security that the *French* shall not drive us out of that Country of *America*." Can any Man read or answer this without Derision at a Time we have driven them out of it almost entirely? And when they began the War with a
Thousand

Thousand Advantages they never can have again, and when the Author admits we have ten Times the Number of People they have in that Country, but granting we should drive them out of *Canada*, will not these People retire and take shelter in *Mississippi*? From that Circumstance will not *Mississippi* be more populous and more dangerous, and all his Apprehensions be renewed from that Quarter, they will drive us out of *America*. It is not the extent of Territory, but the Number of People that makes a Country formidable; Does he require no Security that they shall not drive us out of *Britain*? It is *America* only seems his Care.

He has next at great Length given us the *Indian* Method of making War, and how little our Forts and Artillery can serve as a Security to our Settlements, but will he take Time to reflect how these *Indians* became our Enemies? By our neglecting to protect them, by our allowing the *French* to build Forts to over awe them, even upon our own Property. It then became their Interest to adhere to the *French*, but now that the Scene is changed, that we are in Possession of these Forts, that we are Masters of that Country, and that we only can protect them, those *Indians* must and will be ours from the strongest Motives of any, that of self Interest, and which rules them as much as any People on Earth, so that all the Terror he would raise from those *Indians*, in place of Frightening us, becomes so much additional Strength to us, thus his own Doctrine is undone by the Arguments he throws out to support it, which must often happen when Ingenuity and Fancy are let loose to argue *in vita Minerva*.

The third point advanced is, “ That though *America*
 “ should encrease to a hundred million of Souls there
 “ would be no danger still, they would depend upon
 “ and be subservient to seven or eight million of Souls
 “ in the North at such a Distance.”

One is really out of Countenance to answer such Absurdities in a serious Manner, to state them is sufficient to discredit them, if any Man can agree to them very great is his Faith.

The fourth Maxim is very ingenious, “ That
 “ though none of the *American* Gentlemen come to
 “ *England* to spend their Fortunes it is of no consequence at all; is it of any Importance says he to the
 “ *English* Farmer, whether his Beef, Pork and Tongues
 “ are eat fresh at *London*, or salted at Barbadoes, and
 “ so of his Cheese, Butter and Ale, &c.” What can all that sophistry tend to? Does he know so little of *America* or the *West Indies*, as to believe that the Gentlemen of Fortune in those Countries live upon salted Provisions from *England*? In *America* they have as good Venison, in many Countries Beef, Mutton, and Pork, as they have in *England*, and as good Poultry of all Kinds. In the Sugar Islands Men of Fortune have as voluptuous Tables as they have in *Britain*, of fresh Meat and Poultry, fresh Fish of many Kinds, and plenty of Turtle; Can he either persuade himself or the World, that a Man spending twelve or fifteen thousand Pounds a Year, with opulance and taste in *London*, does *England* no more Service than a Man who spends it in *America* or the *West Indies*, where at his Table he does not consume fifty Pounds worth of *British* Vivres all the Year round? Or does a Gentlemen of Fortune in *America* or the *West Indies*, keep twelve or twenty Servants in his House living like Lords, and cloath’d in the best Manufactures of *England*, as he does when he lives in *London*? In the *West Indies* indeed he is surrounded with as many half Naked Negroes in his House, eating the low Growths of the Country; that Negroes are allowed, but this we are told is great force of Argument, and compleat Knowledge of the Subject, though to most People I should think those Arguments will appear to have no Force or Conclusion at all, being founded upon false Maxims, they become
 only

only evasions of the Truth ; that Cause must be very weak indeed, were Learning, Ingenuity and Eloquence, can suggest nothing stronger to support it than such unfolid Sophistry.

His fifth Maxim is that “ Our Trade to the *West India* Islands is undoubtedly, a very valuable one, “ but it has long been at a stand, our Sugar Planters, “ limited by the Scantiness of Territory, says he, cannot encrease much, an Evil that keeping *Guadaloupe* “ cannot remedy.” Now since the Sugar Islands are so valuable, and long at a stand from the Scantiness of Territory, does it not follow that more Territory should be acquir’d, if ever an Opportunity to do it, rather than when we have got Possession of such Territory we should give it up ; if our Sugar Islands are undeniably very valuable, as he asserts, and that all the Islands we have do not yield 90,000 Hogsheads of Sugar Yearly, or above it ; Is an Island or Territory that can certainly yield 150,000 Hogsheads a Year, to be despised and given up, because we want more Territory ? Will it make no Addition to supply that Scantiness he complains of ? I long to see how he proves that *Guadaloupe* cannot increase our Sugar Trade, if he knows any Thing at all about *Guadaloupe*, he will find this Point hard to prove, that 150 is less than 90, or that 150 added to 90 will not encrease the Number ; as subtle as his Sophistry is, it will meet with Obstructions in this Proof, unless he come to the perswasive Assertion, that *Guadaloupe* produces nothing at all, such is the conclusive Force of these Arguments, extracted from this celebrated Piece, by its Admirer, the Author of the *Gentleman’s Magazine*.

The sixth Assertion is “ That the Peopling of “ *America* does not diminish the People of *England*, “ that it does drain *Britain* of Inhabitants, he says, is “ founded upon Ignorance of the Nature of Population “ in new Countries.

It were to be wished at least that he were right in this, or that his Knowledge in Population were communicate to the People of *England*, as *Britain* is certainly not encreasing in its Number of Inhabitants, and that the Number of People is the great Wealth and Strength of every Country where Industry abounds; If two Countries trading and dealing so deep with one another, the one encreasing so fast in People, as our Author admits *America* does, and the other diminishing, notwithstanding all the Advantages of Manufactories, Trade and Agriculture, which have so greatly advanced of late Years; the Cause is past doubt, the one is draining the other of People, or which is much the same in the End; the one encreasing so fast must soon be Master of the other, that is diminishing it, or at best standing still.

If this ingenious Gentleman had been as much a Friend to *North America* as he would seem to be, he might easily discovered that the Acquisition of *Guadaloupe* must raise the Value of *North America*, and the Trade and Wealth of *Britain*, ten times more than all *Canada* can ever do (without making any Allowance for the Cinnamon Trade); That *Guadaloupe* we have, and *Canada* yet dubious, so those Gentlemen calculate before the Time; but it is the Value of *Guadaloupe*, not its Insignificancy sets so many Pens astir, and so much Eloquence employed to blind the Eyes, and mislead the Understandings of the People of *England* from being sensible of their true Interest, while there is any Choice in their Power, to make when it is considered, what Opposition all other Sugar Islands make to the keeping *Guadaloupe*, what a powerful People they are, how many sit in Parliament, and how many of the Cities of *London*, *Liverpoole* and *Bristol*, are connected with them in that Trade, it can be no Surprize that the Struggle and Opposition should be great, and all Arts employ'd in such a Cause, where from Jealousy and Mistakes, they fancy the Sugar, and other valuable Produce of *Guadaloupe*, will

will hurt their private Interests, or Fortunes in the other Islands; an Effect it will not produce to any sensible Degree, while we have so many foreign Markets to go to; tho' indeed it may put a Stop to Monopolies of that Commodity, and make Sugar as reasonable in *England* as in other Countries; but the more our other Islands dread the Value and Wealth of *Guadaloupe*, the Reasons for our keeping it becomes the stronger to the Nation in general: To them I address myself, I hope they will consider that the many Advantages, fairly and justly stated, arising to the Nation from *Guadaloupe* is not all the Benefit, as it must be noticed, That so much of the Sugar Trade taken from *France*, and added to *Britain*, must increase the Difference of the Political Balance, in a duplicate Ratio; a Pound taken out of one Scale and put in the other makes two Pounds Difference in the Balance.

As I have lived on the Spot in *Guadaloupe* for some Time, so from some Intimacy with the Custom-House, and Naval-Office, I have had more Opportunities to know the Export and Import of this Island, than any Body who hath yet written on the Subject; both what it has produced and what it can produce; and I look upon it as my Duty to attempt the unveiling of the Truth to my Country, from those Clouds of Darkness and Error, that so many able Pens have been long employ'd to involve it in; and if I am allow'd, I may soon oblige the World with a more accurate Description of these conquered Islands, as well as an authentick Account of the Export and Import of the Place, with this Observation, that Facts are stubborn Things, they will neither bend to the Force of Faction and private Views, nor will they yield to Sophistry and Eloquence.

Now to conclude, let us suppose that we have Sugar enough to serve ourselves, as has been asserted by those Gentlemen, and that *Guadaloupe* can produce one hundred and fifty thousand Hogsheads every Year, a Fact that

that can be as distinctly proved, as the Value of any Piece of Ground in *England*, what Grain it can yield with common Culture ; those 150,000 Hogsheads must be manufactured in *Britain*, and exported to foreign Markets, in which Case it is not over valued at 14*l.* the Hoghead, and so returns to *England* two millions one hundred thousand Pounds annually ; include what the Cinnamon Trade may be, with the immense Quantity of Coffee and Cotton, Indico, Cocoa, Ginger, &c. exported from this Island, together with the *British* Manufactories imported here, with the Beef, Wheat, Pork, Butter, Cheese, Ale, Salt-fish, &c. a Man can then frame some Judgment of the Value of this Place, better than by a thousand such sophisticated and evasive Treaties, as those that have appeared in Opposition to *Guadaloupe*, when Subtilty and Resentment are used to over turn all the solid Maxims of Policy and Government, that have stood the Test of so many past Ages, and confirmed by so long Experience.

Me thinks the Nation might rest safe and satisfied, in the well known Ability and Integrity of such a Ministry, as we are blest with ; a Ministry who have in so distinguish'd a Manner carried on the War, with Fortitude, Vigor and Judgment ; who have shown so just a Knowledge of the true Interest of their Country, and where her natural Strength and Vigour lay : Who could judge where to strike a fatal Blow amongst the richest Spots in the World, while our Enemies and our own Country were amusing themselves with more empty Shadows ; I say we might remain well satisfied that such a Ministry would make a Peace suitable to, and consistent with those just Sentiments, of the true Interest of the Nation, that they have shone so conspicuously in managing the War : But no sooner had we so unexpectedly got Footing in *Canada*, than those Foes to *Guadaloupe*, one of the richest Sugar Islands in the World, and which we were actually in Possession of ; This it was thought might divert the Edge of the War from these valuable Sugar Islands,

Islands, where *France* was so sensibly hurt, and so unable to defend : And thus the two great Men at the Helm were addressed, or rather dictated to as School-Boys, and their Instructions given them with a Haughtiness very unbecoming that Dignity and Confidence they had so justly merited of their Country ; it were to be wish'd those Gentlemen would desist, and leave the making the Peace to those much abler Heads, who have so happily conducted the War.

I am, &c.

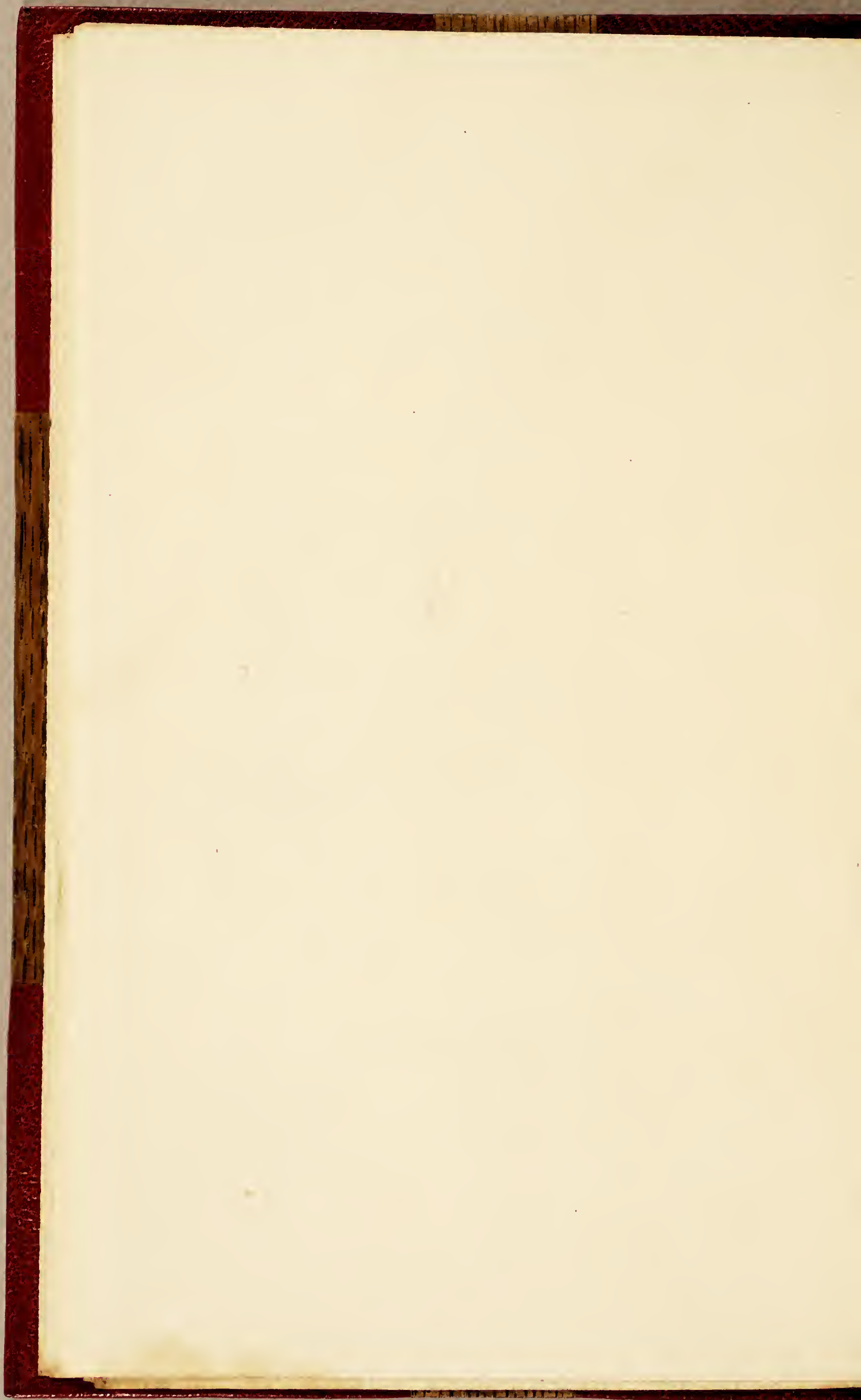
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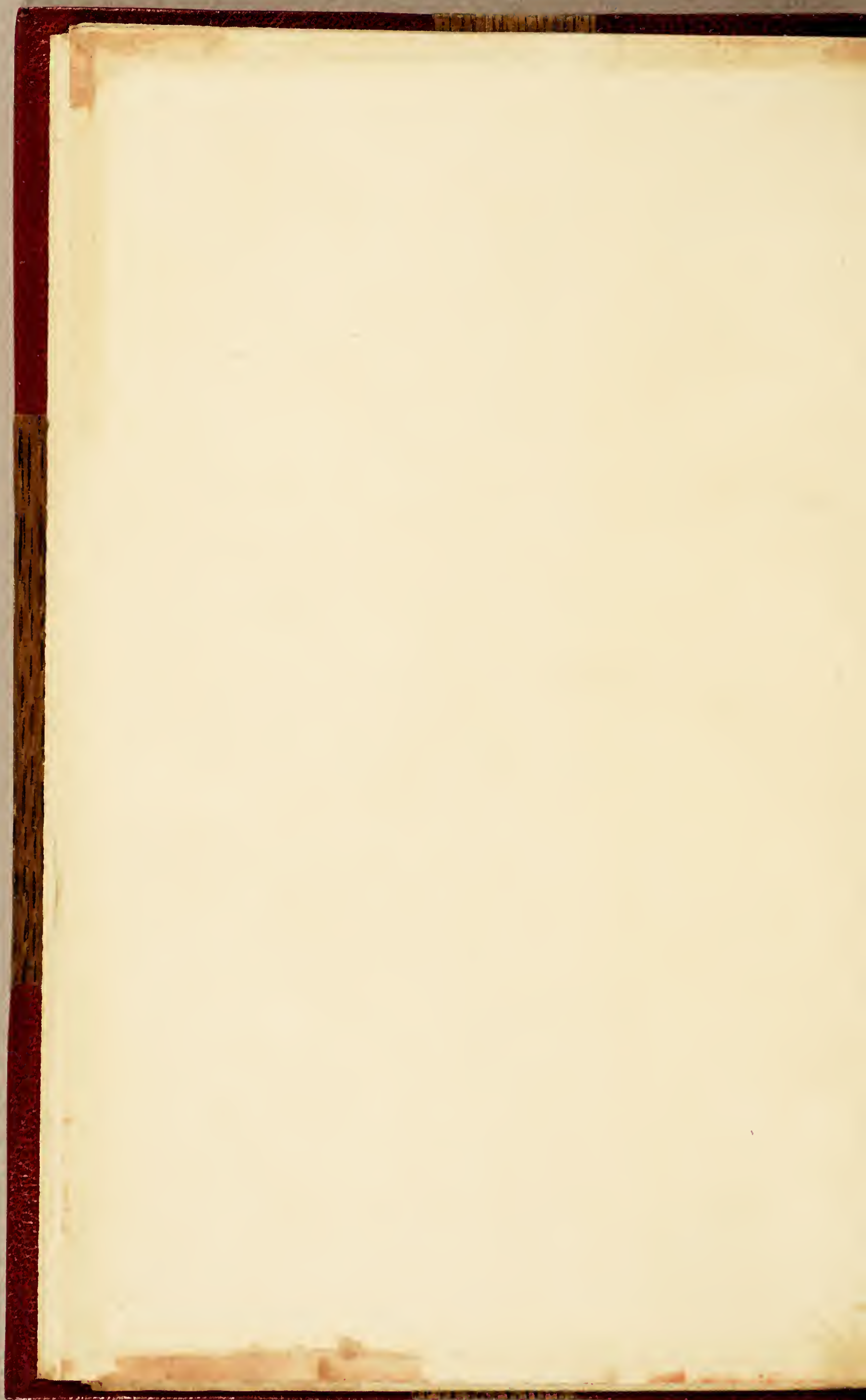
	Hhds.
<i>Barbadoes</i> , at a medium, annually —	12,000
<i>Antigua</i> , ditto — — —	15,000
<i>Montserrat</i> , ditto — — —	3,000
<i>Nevis</i> , ditto — — —	3,400
<i>St. Kit's</i> , ditto — — —	14,000
<i>Anguilla</i> , ditto — — —	50
<i>Tortora</i> , ditto — — —	2,000
<i>Jamaica</i> , over valued, at — — —	40,000
	89,450

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